

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /143 W
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P 241138 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2143

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9196

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, MAY 24, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM DANANG MAY 24 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE DANANG 576

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS REPORTED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED SLIGHTLY TO 15.

AMONG THESE WERE ONE GROUND ATTACK, 10 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), INCLUDING FOUR ROCKETS AND 172 MORTAR ROUNDS, AND FOUR INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT. ACTIVITY WAS AGAIN RELATIVELY LOW IN THE FIRST DIVISION TO WEST OF HUE WITH TWO ABFS TOTALLING 90 MORTAR ROUNDS RECORDED. IN A SIGNIFICANT ACTION SOUTH OF HOI AN CITY IN QUANG NAM, AN RF COMPANY CONDUCTING A SEARCH KILLED TWELVE VC AND DISCOVERED ANOTHER 16 VIET CONG BODIES. REGION- WIDE, CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 4 KIA, 21 WIA; ENEMY 34 KIA (INCLUDING 28 IN QUANG NAM) AND ONE RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,558 ROUNDS; 460 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,098 SOUTH.

2. ICCS:

A. THE ICCS TAM KY SUB- REGION TEAM, WITH ALL FOUR CHIPS PARTICIPATING, COMPLETED THEIR FIRST INVESTIGATION IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE ON MAY 16 AND FILED A REPORT SHORTLY THEREAFTER (REF DANANG 542).

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POLOFF QUANG TIN REPORTS THAT CANDEL AND INDODEL CONCLUDED THE VC COMMITTED A CEASEFIRE VIOLATION, WHILE POLDEL AND HUNGDEL CONCLUDED THAT EVIDENCE AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE INCOMING FIRE ON THE GOVERNMENT OUTPOST WAS INSSUFFICIENT TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS.

B. THE TAM KY ICCS TEAM IS NOW ENGAGED IN AN INVESTIGATION OF THE MAY 15 TERRORIST INCIDENT IN KY LONG VILLAGE, TAM KY DISTRICT (REF DANANG 541). ALTHOUGH GVN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES NOW BELIEVE THE INCIDENT TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND AUTHORIZED AT VC PROVINCE LEVEL, POLOFF QUANG TIN REPORTS THEY HAVE NOT DISCLOSED TO THE ICCS THE SENSITIVE EVIDENCE OF THIS BELIEF.

3. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

A. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO QUANG TRI, PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (PDO) QUANG TRI NOTED A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED VILLAGE OF MORE THAN FORTY HOUSES ON THE PRG SIDE OF THE THACH HAN RIVER OPPOSITE TO AND NOT FAR FROM QUANG TRI CITY. THE HOUSES ARE OF WOOD AND TIN ROOFING, SIMILAR TO GVN REFUGEE CAMP HOUSING, AND ARE NOW OCCUPIED APPARENTLY BY CIVILIANS.

B. A CHIEU HOI RETURNEE, WHO CAME OVER IN QUANG TRI ON APRIL 14, DURING INTERROGATION ASSERTED THAT THE VC HAVE AS AN OBJECTIVE THE PROVISION OF A THREE YEARS' SUPPLY OF WAR MATERIALS (INCLUDING FOOD AND AMMUNITION) IN QUANG TRI. ACCORDING TO THE RETURNEE, THE MATERIAL IS BEING STOCKPILED IN THE EVENT WARFARE IS RENEWED AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REFUSE TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THE VC.

4. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

POLOFF QUANG TIN REPORTS THAT PROVINCE AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO CUT OUT NINE PF PLATOONS. POLOFF COMMENT: COMING OUT OF A TOTAL OF 275 PLATOONS, THE CUT IS VIRTUALLY INSIGNIFICANT. END COMMENT.

5. GVN CONTROL OF TRADE WITH ENEMY:

LIAISON OFFICER DANANG REPORTS THAT COLONEL LE TRI TIN, MAYOR OF DANANG, HAS ORDERED A SWEEP OF THE CITY' S BLACK MARKETS WITH THE PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE OF GATHERING UP UNIFORMS AND BATTERIES.

6. GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:

MAYOR MENTIONED TO CONSUL YESTERDAY THAT PARTY FLAGS OF VNQDD DAI VIET AND OTHERS WERE CO,58 NUING TO FLY IN DANANG BECAUSE IN SPITE OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLEMENT DL 060, NO SUCH IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS HAVE REACHED HIM. WHEN HE RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS, HE WILL FORWARD THEM TO THE PARTY LEADERS AND EXPECT THEM TO COMPLY BY LOWERING THEIR FLAGS AND CLOSING THEIR OFFICE DOORS.

7. NON- GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:

MAYOR TIN INFORMED CONSUL THAT VNQDD FACTION LEADER VU HONG

KHANH HAD BEEN IN DANANG DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO ATTEMPT TO
CONVINCE HIS FACTION TO GO INTO CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY WHEN DL 060
IS IMPLEMENTED RATHER THAN BECOME INOPERATIVE OR SEEK TO JOIN
ONE OF THE STILL LEGAL PUBLIC GROUPINGS. TIN WAS NOT AWARE OF
WHAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BUT NOTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER VNQDD
FACTIONS HAVE MOVED TO JOIN ONE OF THE LEGAL PARTIES. SIGNED BROWN
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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QUOTE DANANG 576
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